

Proposed

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS PRESENTED AT PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER KATARZYNA W. LEE ON DECEMBER , 2002

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For: A POLYMERIC COMPOSITION FOR FRICTION ELEMENTS

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

While it is earnestly solicited that the rejected claims clearly patentably distinguish over Iimuro et al., as well as Iimuro et al. taken with Kane et al., as urged in the preceding arguments, nevertheless to facilitate prosecution of this application, the following amendments are proposed to claim 1:

1. (Twice Amended) A polymeric composition for friction elements which comprises a co-polymer between (I) a resin containing phenolic groups and a reticulation agent (II) an organopolysiloxane resin containing terminal silanol group, [at least part of the phenolic groups being bound to the terminal silanol groups] and an epoxy resin or an epoxidised organopolysiloxane (III), and wherein the bonding between the phenolic groups and the terminal silanol groups is substantially complete.

7. (Twice Amended) A process of preparation of a polymeric composition according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

a) mixing (I) a resin containing the phenolic groups and the reticulation agent, (II) resin containing the terminal silanol groups, and (III) an epoxy resin or the epoxidised organosiloxane,

b) curing the mixture for a period of time sufficient to complete substantially the reaction between the phenolic groups and the terminal silanol groups,

c) post-heating the product obtained under b).

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 7, [.] in which the mixing step a) is conducted at a temperature not exceeding 50°C.

9. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, in which the curing step b) is conducted under a pressure of at least 50 atm. and the temperature is from 80 to 160°C.